

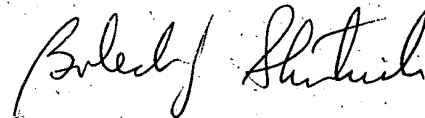
REMARKS

Examiner has allowed the material of claims 2, 5-10 and 21 and merely objected to them as being dependent on a rejected base claim. We have rewritten claim 2 in independent form including all limitations of the base claim. We also have amended claims 3, and 11 to depend on the new independent claim 2. Based on the allowances granted in the last Official Action, the newly amended claim set 2-13, 21 should now be allowed.

Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 11-13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,154,595 (Yokogawa et al.) in view of US Patent 6,469,390 (Chang et al.). Applicant withdraws basic claim 1 and reserves the right to pursue it and related claims under a divisional or continuation-in-part prior to issuance of the claims remaining in this application.

With these changes and remarks it is believed that the disclosure is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited. If necessary, a telephone call would be appreciated to discuss any further final changes to be made to render the claims allowable. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Bolesh J. Skutnik, PhD, JD
Reg. No. 36,347
Attorney for Applicants

Fax: (413) 525-0611

Dated: April 5, 2004

CeramOptec Industries, Inc.
515 Shaker Road
East Longmeadow, MA 01028
Phone: (413) 525-8222